

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 13940 141624Z
ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 ONY-00 /005 W
----- 124583 /42 R
O R 141540Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8216
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 13940

LIMDIS

PARIS FOR AF/W DIRECTOR SMITH

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AFSP, PFOR, NI
SUBJECT: WACASC SUSPENSION INOPERATIVE

REF: (A) LAGOS 13141, (B) LAGOS 13539, (C) LAGOS 13608

1. AMBASSADOR BALEWA, MEA PROTOCOL CHIEF, HAS JUST INFORMED ME THAT FMG'S QUESTIONS CONCERNING WACASC HAVE BEEN RESOLVED AND THERE IS NO NEED FOR THE EXPLANATION THAT WE AGREED THE EMBASSY WOULD SUBMIT. HE SAID" YOUR ORAL PRESENTATION WAS SUFFICIENT - WE CAN FORGET ABOUT THE WHOLE THING." I TOLD HIM WE HAD ALREADY PREPARED THE NOTE EXPLAINING THE DETAILS OF WACASC OPERATION AND WERE ON THE POINT OF SENDING IT TO HIS OFFICE. WE AGREED IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE RECORD, AND IT IS BEING TRANSMITTED TO MEA ACCORDINGLY. (COPIES BEING POUCHED). BELEWA AGREED TO SEND THE EMBASSY A NOTE TO GET US OFFICIALLY OUT FROM UNDER THE EFFECT OF THE EARLIER NOTE SUSPENDING CLEARANCES FOR MAJOR PORTION OF WACASC SHIPMENTS.

2. EMBASSY/DEPARTMENT TACTIC OF FORTHRIGHT COUNTER-ARGUMENTS TO FMG'S PORT-CONGESTION THESIS SEEMS TO HAVE PAID OFF. OUR REFUSAL TO DISCUSS MODALITIES OF PROPOSED CUTBACK, COMBINED WITH LOGIC OF OUR ARGUMENT THAT PROPOSED REDUCTION WOULD REDUCE LAGOS' PORT CARGO BY ONLY ONE-FORTIETH OF ONE PERCENT, PRESENTED FMG WITH EMBARRASSING DILEMMA. TO ARGUE THE CASE ON THE ORIGINAL PREMISE WOULD HAVE BEEN PATENTLY ABSURD. AND YET TO ADMIT REAL REASON FOR THE DECISION- I.E. ONGOING SECURITY CONCERNS GROWING OUT OF THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LAGOS 13940 141624Z

FEBRUARY EVENTS - WOULD BE NOT ONLY EMBARRASSING FOR FMG BUT ALSO

IN SHARP CONTRAST WITH EXPRESSED DESIRES FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH US. ONLY AVAILABLE ALTERNATIVE FOR FMG WAS TO BEAT A RAPID AND QUIET RETREAT.

3. WE MAY SOMEDAY LEARN WHO WERE OUR FRIENDS IN COURT. AMBASSADOR SANU MAY HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN BRINGING ABOUT THIS SUDDDEN REVERSAL OF FMG POSITION. HE TOLD ME SEVERAL DAYS AGO THAT THE DECISION TO CURTAIL WACASC HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH PORT CONGESTION BUT WAS SIMPLY THE PDODUCT OF STILL ONGOING REPERCUSSIONS FROM THE TRAUMA OF THE FEBRUARY ASSASSINATION. THE MOTIVATION FOR THE DECISION, ACCORDING TO SANU, WAS ONGOING SUSPICION OF THE US ON THE PART OF "CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE SMC." HE TOLD ME HE WAS UNABLE TO IDENTIFY THEM (I WONDER), BUT HE KNEW WE KNEW THEY WERE THERE. IN RESPONSE, I HAD URGED SANU TO DO WHAT HE COULD TO IMPRESS UPON THE FMG OUR READINESS TO RESPOND TO ANY SUCH CONCERNS ON THE PART OF SMC MEMBERS WITH FULL EXPLANATIONS, AND I REPEATED OUR PEVIOUS OFFERS TO RECEIVE ANY FMG REPRESENTATIVES AT ANY TIME FOR FULL VISIT TO WACASC FACILITIES. I TOLD HIM I FOUND HIS ASSESSMENT

FOR THE REASONS FOR THE SUSPENSION ORDER MOST DISHEARTENING. I SAID I EXPECTED GREATER MATURITY AND SOPHISTICATION FROM THE SMC. I CONSIDERED SUCH ONGOING SUSPICION OF US ACTIVITIES IN NIGERIA AS DEMEANING OF THE FMG AND DAMAGING TO ITS DESIRED IMAGE OF OBJECTIVITY AND FAIRNESS IN ITS DEALINGS WITH FRIENDLY COUNTRIES.

4. FAVORABLE OUTCOME OF WACASC PROBLEM MAY BE ALSO DUE, AT LEAST IN PART, TO EFFECTS OF SENATOR CLARK'S VISIT AND FMG DESIRE START OFF ON RELATIVELY CLEAN SLATE WITH NEW ADMINISTRATION, IN THIS CONNECTION YAR ADUA'S PARTICIPATION IN OBASANJO/CLARK MEETING MAY HAVE BEEN SIGN-

IFICANT.
EASUM

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PORT CONGESTION, FOREIGN RELATIONS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), WACASC
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LAGOS13940
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760460-0426
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761245/aaaabmtj.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 76 LAGOS 13141, 76 LAGOS 13539, 76 LAGOS 13608
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WACASC SUSPENSION INOPERATIVE
TAGS: AFSP, PFOR, NI, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006